

November 6, 2009

Dear Parents,

This week in our classroom we enjoyed a school visit by an author who has written non-fiction books for National Geographic. She shared video tape taken from the back of a baby humpback whale. We also learned how her experiences on undersea vessels led her to write a book about deep sea creatures. It was fascinating.

This week in our classroom, we are continuing to practice and work with division of numbers using estimation, partial quotients, and the traditional method of long division as well.

In Social Studies we had the group presentations of our tribal codex on Friday--and they were very good! On Monday we will begin reading about explorers and the students will be creating some objects, maps, timelines, and navigation tools in class, as we go through the unit. The students have received the name of one particular explorer that they will create a poster about and present to the class on November 20, 2009. The research framework that was attached to the explorer bio. guides their research and those categories must be covered on the poster: Date and place of birth (if known); routes, contributions, etc. There should be a visual representation of the explorer on the poster and students may use images found on the internet. More points will be given for creatively crafted posters that show effort and demonstrate knowledge learned.

In Science we have begun our physical science unit on molecules and atoms with a look at the periodic table. We will continue this study through the week.

In Readers Workshop, the students are working through their historic fiction projects. All components are due on November 30---remember I

have extended the deadline. We are also continuing to work on spelling patterns, vocabulary building, editing and grammar practice as well as small group instruction! Reading Logs are due every Monday!!

In Writers Workshop, the students are finishing up persuasive writing pieces and we will have a persuasive prompt given this week that will be completed in class. We have also been editing our class book about Fablehaven, as a group, and that has been a valuable learning experience on writing and editing. The final product will be posted in our hallway. The students are also writing, "I AM" poems from the perspective of a particular member of their assigned native tribe as a final product on the Native American study.

On Friday I sent home a notice about parent-teacher conferences. Please let me know asap if the time slot you were given will not work for you. For those of you unable to attend during our conference times scheduled for 11/23/09 - 11/24/09, I can schedule a time for you on the following Wednesday afternoon. Please email me about times you would be available that Wednesday (1:00 -on)

Next Monday, November 16, 2009 is our class Thanksgiving meal. Thank-you for responding with offers to provide items for our feast. I will send home your confirmation of reservation this week. See the attached form if your student did not bring it home! We will be making aprons to use as servers in the class "restaurant." If your student would like to make and keep an apron the cost will be \$5.00. I just need a head count tomorrow to know how many aprons and paint supplies I will need to buy. Students do not have to buy an apron--it is strictly optional. The students are very excited about this--I hope you can make it!

I hope you all have a great week--

Jalynn

